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United States Patent [19]

Christeson et al.

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[54] **GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE-BASED, CLIENT-SERVER SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DECISION MAKING APPLICATIONS**

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[21] Appl. No.: **08/581,679**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 29, 1995**

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ G06F 17/30

[51] Int. Cl.^{6} G06F 17/30
[52] U.S. Cl. 707/10; 707/8; 707/104
[58] Field of Search 395/601, 610; 707/10, 8, 104

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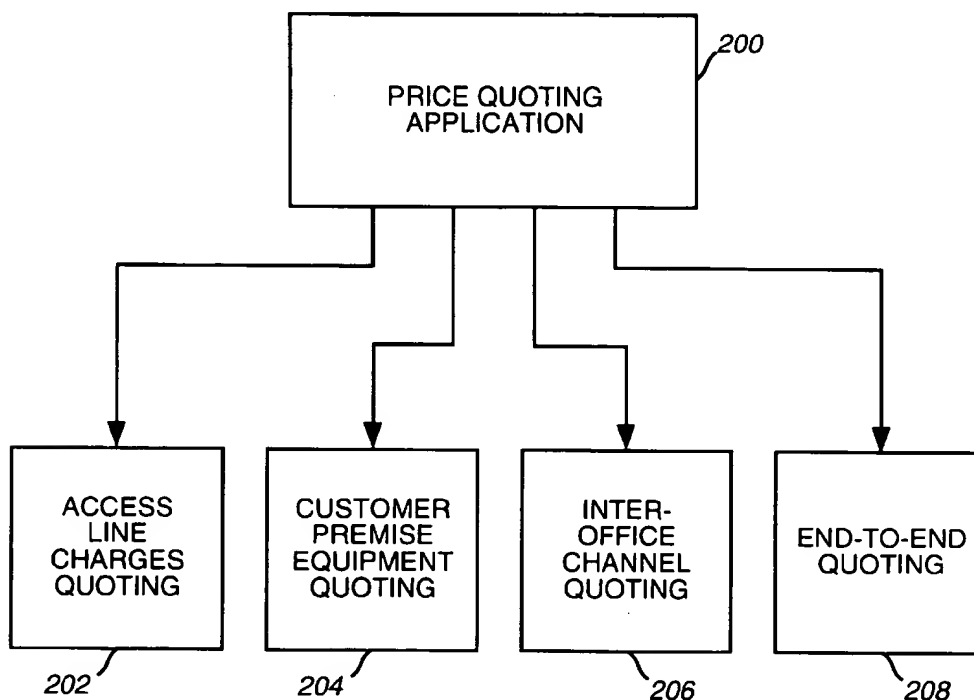|			
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Primary Examiner—Paul R. Lintz
Assistant Examiner—Frantz Coby

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A client-server system and method providing real time access to a variety of database systems, for decision making applications, such as dynamic price quoting, product/service configuration and ordering, and billing verification. The system and method uses a graphical user interface to provide a user transparent and seamless access to the database systems.

14 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets

US-PAT-NO: 5926817

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5926817 A

TITLE: Graphical user interface-based, client-server system and
method for decision making applications

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Drawing Description Text - DRTX (8):
  FIG. 7 illustrates an ALCC Access **Volume Discounts** (AVD) Notebook Page;

Detailed Description Text - DETX (8):
  The preferred embodiment provides the service company representative with a
graphical user interface (GUI) which is used to more efficiently quote the
customer various types of telecommunication line configurations and rate charge
with respect to ALCC, CPE, IOC, and ETE charges as well as pricing plan and
access **volume discount** information. More particularly, the preferred
embodiment is a client-server system and method with user friendly graphical
inquiry capabilities for real time, transparent access to distributed databases
containing the requisite price quoting information. In addition, the preferred
embodiment provides the representative with informational data of mandatory
and
optional features.

Detailed Description Text - DETX (30):
  To view/select ALCC features, rates, or discounts for a quote, the
representative selects <Details> push button 406 on ALCC Line Charge
Quoting spreadsheet screen 400. In response, a notebook 500 appears having
a
number of pages, including a ALCC Features page 502, a ALCC Accessing
Pricing
Plan (APP) page 504, a ALCC Access **Volume Discounts** (AVD) page 506, and
a ALCC
Penalties page 514, as presented in FIGS. 5-8/Tables 3-6. ALCC Features
notebook page 502 displays the required and optional ALCC features and
charges
for the selected quote. The representative at this junction may deselect any

optional feature(s) which is/are not desired. The preferred embodiment, in response, correspondingly subtracts the deselected feature's rates from the overall ALCC quote.

Claims Text - CLTX (40):

13. A client-server computer system for providing a user with the ability to configure a product and/or service, wherein the client-server computer system further includes a graphical user interface (GUI) for providing **real-time price** quoting summary information, comprising: